

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 01852 212325Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01
MCT-01 SY-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01
DODE-00 USSS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /057 W
-----212357Z 054873 /72

O 212253Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4079
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1852

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PFOR,PINT, PINS, PGOV,ES
SUBJECT: GOES' FIRST ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF BORGONOVO KIDNAPPING

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1818

1. THE AMBASSADOR AND DATT ATTENDED THE PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WHICH STARTED AT 8:30 AM AND LASTED SOME TWO HOURS. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE MOST OF THE TIME, A GOOD PORTION OF WHICH WAS A HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT THE COUNTRY FACES, GOING BACK IN TIME TO THE 1931-32 PEASANT REVOLT. HE TRACED THE GROWTH OF SUBVERSION AND TERRORISM, INCLUDING DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH OF THE POLITICAL KIDNAPPINGS WHICH BEGAN IN 1971 WITH THE SEIZURE AND DEATH OF ERNESTO REGALADO.

2. FINALLY ARRIVING AT THE MATTER OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE PRESIDENT DECLARED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NOT REACHED A FINAL DECISION AS TO HOW IT PLANS TO PROCEED. HE DID SAY THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 01852 212325Z

THE GOVERNMENT TO MEET THE ORIGINAL DEMAND FOR THE RELEASE OF THIRTY SEVEN POLITICAL PRISONERS FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE THE MAJORITY OF THOSE NAMED IN ITS CUSTODY. THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THAT ONLY FIVE ON THE LIST HAD EVER BEEN IN GOES HANDS. OF THOSE, TWO WERE RELEASED IN THE POMA CASE LAST JANUARY. THE OTHER THREE ARE STILL DETAINED BUT, HE EXPLAINED, ARE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COURTS, NOT THE

EXECUTIVE. IN SUM, PRESIDENT MOLINA SAID THAT WHILE THE GOES IS PURSUING A FAVORABLE SOLUTION, IT CANNOT AND WILL NOT ACCEDE TO THE DEMANDS OF THE KIDNAPPERS. HE SAID THAT IN CASES SUCH AS THIS THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO CAREFULLY WEIGHT THE SECURITY NEEDS OF THE NATION AGAINST THE PERSONAL SECURITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL. IN FINAL BALANCE, HE SAID, THE NEEDS OF THE NATION COME FIRST. THE PRESIDENT ADDED THAT THE BORGONOVO FAMILY ASKED THE GOVERNMENT IF IT COULD NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH THE MINISTER'S CAPTORS. HE SAID PERMISSION WAS GIVEN. THE PRESIDENT ENDED BY SAYING THAT QTE IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS, THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF EL SALVADOR WILL BE AT STAKE UNQTE. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

3. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, THE NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR OFFERED HIS SERVICES TO THE GOVERNMENT, IF NEEDED, AS A POSSIBLE NEGOTIATOR WITH THE TERRORISTS. THAT PROMPTED THE PAPAL NUNCIO TO CALL A CHIEFS-OF-MISSION MEETING AT THE NUNCIATURA FOR LATER IN THE MORNING. A DECISION WAS MADE AT THE CONCLAVE TO HAVE A DELEGATION OF AMBASSADORS CALL ON THE PRESIDENT LATER IN THE AFTERNOON.

4. COMMENT. THE PRESIDENT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PRESIDENT-ELECT ROMERO, VICE PRESIDENT ELECT ASTACIO AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CASTANEDA. THE MINDEF AND OTHERS WHO NORMALLY ATTEND SUCH BRIEFINGS WERE NOT PRESENT. AN HOUR AFTER THE MEETING BROKE UP, CASTANEDA ATTENDED THE AMERICAN SOCIETY LUNCHEON AT WHICH THE AMBASSADOR WAS THE MAIN SPEAKER. HE WAS DRAWN AND TIRED. HE EXPRESSED HIS PESSIMISM WITH POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE BORGONOVO CASE. HIS ONE SLIM HOPE WAS THAT THE FPL APPEARS LESS FANATIC THAN THE ERP WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POMA KIDNAP/DEATH. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE FPL WAS ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 01852 212325Z

SOMEWHAT CLOSER TO THE CHURCH, AND THE LATTER MIGHT BE ABLE TO INTERVENE AND AFFECT A FAVORABLE SOLUTION.

5. THE EMBASSY IS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT MANY PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT'S STORY ABOUT HOW MANY PRISONERS IT HAS, OR WHY IT HASN'T ANY MORE. EVERYONE ASSUMED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT MANY NAMES ON THE LIST BELONGED TO THOSE NO LONGER AMONG THE LIVING. WE MAINTAIN YESTERDAY'S CONVICTION THAT BORGONOVO IS IN A VERY TIGHT SPOT. CASTANEDA ENDED HIS COMMENTS BY SAYING THAT HE BELIEVES, SADLY, THAT THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING, THAT THERE WILL BE MORE AND WORSE TO FOLLOW.
LOZANO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANS01852
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770139-0603
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770433/aaaabcdnk.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 874c30a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SAN SALVADOR 1818
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2736681
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOESV FIRST ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF BORGONOVO KIDNAPPING
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, PGOV, ES, (BORGONOVO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/874c30a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009